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REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR ACTIVITIES IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR ACTIVITIES IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

A. INTRODUCTION

1. On 17 December 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 34/151, proclaiming "1985" International Youth Year (IYY) with the themes Participation, Development and Peace. This proclamation was in response to the support by Governments, Organizations and Individuals to the concept of devoting a year specifically to young people throughout the world. It was an indication of the growing concern by member States and the international community to the situation of youth and more significantly, a recognition of the vital role young people can play in shaping the future of their countries and mankind as a whole. To that effect, the declared objectives of the International Youth Year were as follows:

- to heighten the awareness of the sitatuion of youth, their needs and aspirations among decision-makers and the public;

- to promote policies and programmes relating to youth as an integral part of social and economic development, according to each country's experience, conditions and priorities;

- to enhance the active participation of youth in society and in particular the promotion and achievements of development and peace;

- to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding;

- to encourage co-operation at all levels in dealing with youth issues.

2. Accordingly, the International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace (IYY), was meant to be devoted to various activities in implementation of the stated objectives of Year. This report therefore highlights some of the activities undertaken in the African region by national governments, non-governmental organizations, United Nations bodies and international agencies. It is based mainly or replies received from member States, to a questionaire circulated in March 1986. The data thus obtained has also been supplemented with information extracted from the Youth Information Bulletin, issues Nos. 50-58, published by the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA), in Vienna, Austria, as well as from various available reports on youth activities in member States. Those countries which replied to the questionnaire or about which information on their IYY activities was obtainable from other sources, have been citec in this report. However those countries which did not respond to the questionnaire and on which data could not be obtained from other sources have not been mentioned in this report.

B. LEGISLATION AND ELABORATION OF NATIONAL YOUTH POLICIES

3. The delcaration of International Youth Year provided an opportune time for a review of exisiting national youth policies, with the objective or proposing relevant improvement and modification; the formulation of new policies where they did not exist, as well as the enactment of appropriate legislations concerning young people. In this connection, the Head of State of Senegal, declared the observance of a Youth Decade (1985-1995), during which the theme of IYY, participation, development and peace will continue to be highlighted in youth policies and programmes in the country. A ten-year plan of action on youth, to be implemented during the decade, was drawn up on the basis of a study on the situation of youth in the country, prepared by the national IYY committee. In Uganda, the IYY committee recommended new youth policies on the basis of findings of a study on the situation of youth in the country. A review as made in Swaziland of the situation of youth, government youth policies, voluntary youth participation, and on the basis of this, the committee prepared a comprehensive national youth policy, and in this respect, formulated a ten-year plan (1986-1995) for the implementation and evaluation of this policy. The national Assembly of Botswana discussed and eventually adopted a national youth policy, while in Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, and Sudan, an examination of existing legislations was undertaken, with the objective of elaborating comprehensive youth policies and of establishing national priorities concerning youth. Burkina-Faso also formulated a ten-year plan of action on youth. The Nigeria National Advisory Committee for IYY assisted the government in efforts to formulate a national strategy on youth and set up targets and priorities in the field of youth development and Kenya convened various youth forums to discuss the content of a youth policy.

C. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS/BODIES OR STRUCTURES

4. In most African countries, some structures or bodies existed prior to the International Youth Year, charged with the responsibility of co-ordinating youth programmes, activities and other related matters. These included ministries or departments of youth and sports, social affairs, community development, youth wings of national political parties, youth associations and similar bodies. However, in order to give special focus to the activities and celebration of IYY, several countries deemed it necessary to create national co-ordinating committees and other similar bodies. Available information indicates that more than two-thirds of the countries in the region established national co-ordinating committees for IYY. These include Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Ruanda, Senegal, Seychelles,

Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Some of these committees, especially where no other youth structures existed, later assumed permanent status with responsibility for youth affairs in their respective countries.

D. YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

(a) Agriculture and rural development

5. Agriculture and rural-based activities are the mainstay of Africa's economic base. Yet, the participation of young people in agriculture and rural-based industries is estimated to range from only 5 to 29 percentages of the total youth population in African countries. 1/ This rate is much too low considering that the future development of this sector depends a great deal on able-bodied manpower, the young people of today.

6. In recognition of this factor, some countries intensified the involvement of youth in agriculture and rural development, during IYY. For example, in Swaziland, thirteen youth maize clubs were created in rural areas, under the umbrella of the Mashihambisane Youth Maize Association. Financial assistance was provided to some of these clubs to improve maize production and promote self-sufficiency in the production of staple food. Tree planting to increase afforestation was undertaken in various countries such as Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya and Mauritania. Under the IYY theme:"Feed Ghana, make Ghana clean, make Ghana green, educate Ghana", the Ghana National Youth Committee involved youth in food production, and agro-afforestation programmes. The completion of a Youth Training Institute had been scheduled for the end of 1985, for training rural youth in the fishing industry.
7. Included in the Burundi National Youth Festival, was an exhibition of agricultural products and handicrafts designed to illustrate the activities of the various rural youth centres and to encourage young people to play a more active role in productive activities. Morocco stepped up its vocational training programmes entitled "Training of rural youth in the building trading", with technical and financial assistance from the World Food Programme and UNDP. In Madagascar, efforts in agricultural and rural development were directed toward food self-sufficiency through increase in acreage, diversification of farm products, improvement of existing transport infrastructure and the creation of secondary roads to facilitate the transportation of farm and other rural products. In Rwanda the Ministry of Youth and Co-operative Movement, involved young people in agro- pastoral activities as part of national efforts to ensure food- sufficiency for the nation. Mali also gave top priority to the participation of youth in agricultural production. "Revolutional Ethiopia Youth Week" was observed throughout Ethiopia with concentration

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1/United Nations: Statisical Indicators or Youth, New York 1985

on activities in rural development. Other African countries focused the participation of young people on such rural-based projects as irrigation schemes, construction of access roads and bridges, soil conservation, training of rural cadres for rural development, and the formation of youth production co-operatives.

(b) Education and training

8. In this sector, several countries organized both short and long-term programmes, some of which benefited youth directly, while others benefited the general population through the involvement of youth. In some countries, IYY provided the opportunity for paying more attention to exisiting programmes in order to improve their performance. Botswana promoted the intensification of Botswana 4-H Clubs, a non-formal youth education programme under the Ministry of Agriculture. It provides skill training in agriculture, home economics, rural crafts and other similar skills to youth aged between 10 and 22 years, including students, school drop-outs and out-of-school youth. With the assistance of UNDP and UNESCO, Madagascar embarked on the provision of technical and vocational training of both urban and rural youth in agro- pastoral, artisanal and technological skills, with the objective of organizing them into production units; the establishment of a national and regional youth documentation and information centres; and the broadcasting of youth educational programmes on television and the radio.

9. Coinciding with IYY in Morocco, was the education reform, whereby the Ministry of Education introduced a nine-year basic education which aimed at channelling 20 per cent of the enrolment into vocational training in order to develop middle-level artisans. Similarly, in Kenya, a new education system called the "8-4-4" was launched in January 1985, with emphasis on providing young people practical skills for self-reliance. In addition, Kenya's IYY activities included the diversification and expansion of training in technical skills to erhance employment prospects for young people and increasing national and international educational opportunities for young workers. In Algeria, a long-term education programme inititated durirg IYY placed emphasis on science and technology in schools. To this end, technological education has been introduced in 45 schools, 29 new technical schools have been opened, and the creation of new youth science and technology clubs has been emphasized. The country also launched a national programme known as "Connaisance de l'Algerie" (Knowledge of Algeria), which enabled young people to visit and learn about different parts of the country, its people and their traditions, to meet and exchange ideas and experience with other young people, as well as to undertake cultural and historical excursions.

10. Included in the Ghana Youth Training Institute, which had been scheduled for completion durirg IYY, are such practical

subjects as fishing, co-operative marketing, basic carpentry, repair of motors and related subjects. In Zimbabwe, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, in co-operation with national youth organizations, embarked on the establishment of centres for training youth in skills relevant to co-operative projects and other job- creation endeavours. In celebration of the Year, Burundi increased admission facilities at all levels of education and involved students in workcamps alongside rural youth throughout the country. Cameroon also envisaged the creation of a number of youth centres by youth associations and the organization of various courses for youth. Participation by young people in literacy programmes was one of the IYY activities in Rwanda and Zimbabwe. Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea Tanzania and Togo also provided various skill training to youth cadres and leaders.

11. In addition to specific short and long-term measures in education and training, a number of countries also organized conferences, meetings, seminars and workshops on the themes of IYY, or on other specific subjects concerning youth. In the Congo, IYY programme of activities included the organization of a conference on the crisis of adolescence, a seminar on health education, infectious diseases and hygiene and an international conference on education and disarmament. Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Ghana, Burundi, Morocco, Tanzania and Swaziland also held a sereis of seminars and workshops on issues affecting youth.

(c) Employment promotion

12. Underemployment and unemployment are among the pressing problems facing youth in many African countries. It is one of the causes of rising rates of rural to urban migration and deliquency among young people. International Youth Year served as an occasion for drawing the attention of planners, policy makers, practitioners and the public at large, at the plight of unemployed youth. Efforts in solving this problem in member countries during IYY included intensification of existing programmes, execution of short-term employment projects for young people, as well as the initiation of new employment-oriented programmes in pursuance of the objectives of the Year. Some of the efforts towards the creation of employment opportunities for young people were directly linked to the type of education and training programmes offered, as described in the section concerning education and training. For example, in Botswana, the promotion of rural employment opportunities for young people was linked to the 4-B clubs. In Swaziland, similar efforts were undertaken through the youth maize clubs, in addition to the provision of training in trade and crafts offered to unemployed and unskilled youth. Some countries continued to encourage the organization of youth production, economic or work groups. Such countries included Kenya which created a sub-committee on employment in the national co-ordinating committee for IYY, and

put emphasis on assisting young entrepreneurs from village polytechnics to obtain employment; Tanzania, which provided training in self-employment; Burundi, which provided basic training in apprenticeship and encouraged the formation of co-operatives, as well as Togo. In Rwanda, the promotion of "socio-economic" production groups was stepped up to enable young people to obtain employment in agro-pastoral or artisanal projects. By 1985, there were 1,200 such youth groups under the Ministry of Youth and Co-operative Movement (Ministere de la Jeunesse et de Movement Co-operatif).

13. The National Committee for IYY in Zimbabwe encouraged the creation of employment opportunities through small-scale agricultural projects, and co-operatives formed to engage youth in carpentry, dressmaking, metal work, brickmaking and tree planting. The central theme for IYY in Mali was "The preparation of young people in socio-economic production", with emphasis on self-employment. The IYY strategy in Zambia emphasized agriculturally-based programmes to create jobs for youth. In Madagascar, the creation of employment opportunities is being encouraged through the provision of technical and material support with special attention to collective and cooperative groups.

14. In Lesotho, one of the IYY sub-committees concentrated on income-generation. In Algeria, employment promotion efforts included the establishment of a national correspondence centre for young people, the creation of employment opportunities in untapped sectors such as hydraulics, with particular emphasis on maintenance and increasing the number of trainees and apprentices in available enterprises. Equatorial Guinea constructed a hostel for young workers, while in Cameroon, a number of employment opportunities for youth were initiated as part of an on-going programme under the "Petites et Moyenes Enterprises" (PME) (small and medium entrepreneurs) with financial assistance from the "Fond de Garanter aux Petites Enterprises" (Fund for small-scale industries). Liberia created a National Youth Service Corps in 1985. In Tunisia, the Ministry of Labour launched a "jobs programme for young people", by which young people under the age of 25 years were provided equipment in the form of gifts or interest-free loans to set up their own workshops, on condition that they employ a certain number of other young people.

(d) Research and data collection

15. As is the case with many other activities, research and data collection on the situation of youth was undertaken, either as part of the long-established programmes, or as one of the activities for IYY. In this respect, Burundi reported to have undertaken a research study on the socio-economic situation of the municipality of Bujumbura, which included a census on unemployed youth, juvenile delinquency and drug addiction. The report on the findings of the study was presented to the University of Burundi and other institutions of higher learning. In Cameroon,

data collection on issues concerning youth continued as part of the overall long- established national system of research, under the guidance of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. (Ministere de l'Enseignement Superieur et de la Recherche Scientifique). In Tanzania, the Department of Youth continued its profile surveys in villages to determine the availability of viable economic activities for unemployed youth. Kenya planned to open a Youth Centre for Research and Training under the Ministry of Culture and Social Services. Togo also encouraged research on youth issues through existing institutions. The Ministry of Youth in Madagascar, in close cooperation with other agencies in the country, undertook data collection on the basis of which IYY activities were determined. In addition a study on the Situation of Madagascar Youth (Enquete Diagnostic Sur Les Realites de la Jeunesse Malgache) was completed during IYY.

16. In some countries, the national committee on IYY included some research activities in their programme. The committee in Uganda collected data on youth membership and participation in the various youth associations in the country. It also advocated for continuous undertaking of research on various issues concerning young people, as well as the evaluation of national youth policies and programmes developed since 1964, with the objective of recommending new ones in line with changing national situations. In Kenya, the committee recommended research on the problems of disadvantaged youth. In Senegal a document on the situation of youth was prepared. A study on the situation of youth was also undertaken in Mauritania to determine the actual needs and aspirations of young people and Algeria established national research units in certain existing youth institutes.

(e) Health, nutrition and population issues

17. A number of activities relating to health, nutrition and population were undertaken in several countries in support of WHO's objectives of "health for all to the year 2000", Togo organized a health campaign using the WHO slogan. Senegal had a similar campaign with the "youth and health", while Congo organized a youth contest for the best slogan or work of art on the theme of "Youth and Health from now to the year 2000". In addition, Congo also organized a seminar on health education and hygiene and conducted educational programmes to fight malaria. In Swaziland, a sub-committee on health was responsible for the promotion of health campaigns in the country. The country also increased its youth counselling services to counteract juvenile delinquency, alcohol, drug abuse, and adolescent pregnancy as well as organizing discussions on youth and the family. Burundi stepped up its health education for young people particularly as regards sex-education, hygiene, physical education and sports. In Equatorial Guinea, a campaign against drug trafficking was organized, while Botswana and Lesotho included in their IYY programmes some aspects of health.

18. The IYY co-ordinating committee in Zimbabwe mobilized young people in the construction of clinics, sewage disposal units, and water supply sources. Youth were also involved in a national child-nutrition project, and took the initiative in organizing a blood donor service for hospitals in the capital of Harare. Algeria also undertook a number of activities which have long-term effects on the health of youth and the general population, by promoting medical check-ups in schools and compulsory vaccination for children. It also formulated a plan for the prevention of certain childhood diseases, organized a national week for sensitizing youth and the public or family planning, and instituted an individual health record system to ensure continuous follow-up of one's health since birth. In Madagascar, a brochure on the training of young people in health and another on popular health education were published and widely disseminated. Morocco hosted the Arab Conference on Youth and the Family, held in Marrakesh from 9-12 December 1985, in which young people had the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences. In Cameroon, vaccination campaigns and nutritional education programmes were conducted. "Days of primary health care" were observed in Ethiopia, in which young people participated in activities such as building sanitary facilities and draining springs in order to improve the sanitary conditions of their communities.

(f) Environment and sanitation

19. Protection and conservation of the environment and public sanitation are increasingly receiving the attention of African countries, albeit rather late. In this connection, IYY provided an opportune time for countries to sensitize young people and involve them in the conservation of the environment for future generations, and in sanitation campaigns. To this end, Mauritania initiated a long-term project entitled "Youth and the tree" to promote reafforestation. Young people throughout Kenya participated in soil and water conservation and tree-planting campaigns, as did those in Burundi and Tanzania. Algeria established a special fund for reafforestation programmes and instituted an annual reafforestation campaign. It also mobilized youth sanitation brigades, organized seminars on water sanitation and reinforced periodic checking of public water supply systems. In Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire, international work camps for reafforestation were organized, involving young people from different countries, while in Mali, national sub-committee on youth and the environment were formed as part of the national committee for IYY. The first Saturday of every month was designated as "youth clean-up day" in Ghana, and the young people took part in a clean-up exercise throughout the country, while Cameroon stepped up its campaign against drought. A week of afforestation was marked in Ethiopia in which, thousands of trees were planted by young women and men. Madagascar also organized a reafforestation campaign. In addition, youth were involved in the construction of bridges, water points, irrigation canals, public and sanitary facilities.

(g) Information and publicity

20. More than anything else, media coverage of IYY, and many of the activities organized to celebrate it, gave encouragement to the national IYY committees, and helped to enkindle the spirit of participation to youth groups, in addition to raising the consciousness of policy makers, planners and the public at large to the needs and aspirations of young people. The very nature of some of the IYY activities also engendered a lot of publicity. For example, to increase awareness among the general public about the situation of youth in Cote d'Ivoire, a national day of good citizenship and a national week of solidarity and participation were declared. The Ministry of Youth in the country organized a design competition of young amateur artists to develop an emblem reflecting the idealism and aspirations of young people, for use during IYY at national and local activities and for publicitiy. The construction of a youth information centre in Cote d'Ivoire also indicated the level of concern generated by the Year, for the needs of youth. In Kenya, a sub-committee on information and publicity was formed to organize forums on the themes of IYY, essay competitions, literature, festivals, a Harambee Youth Week and a National Youth Day Rally. Preparation of posters with the IYY logo and the issuance of commemorative stamps were organized in Morocco and Swaziland. In Uganda, a team from the National Union of Youth Organizationos embarked on a four-month youth mobilization tour of districts to address young people and district officials on IYY and its objectives. The "Ghana Youth", a monthly newspaper, was launched by the national committee in Ghana; while in Zimbabwe and Central African Republic also planned similar publications. Tunisia prepared an "IYY Information Pack" in Arabic and French, which provided details on the major plans and activities during IYY, and was distributed all over the country. The National Youth Festival in Burundi, organized around the theme: "Aiming for Greater Youth Participation", was the most important event of the year, and it received much radio and television publicity throughout the duration.

21. A "Month of Action for the Safeguarding of Youth" was launched in the Congo, which included films, radio and television shows. In Egypt, a youth roundtable was convened to increase the awareness of decision-makers, planners and educators on the needs of youth. The official opening of IYY in Mauritania which included a large youth parade with IYY banners and placards, received wide national coverage, and the national festival attracted large numbers of young people. In addition, radio and television programmes were organized to sensitize young people to such social problems as alcoholism, vandalism, drug abuse, prostitution and dropping out of school. The National Co-ordinating Committee in Zambia organized a fund-raising gala night, featuring well-known entertainers, which gave the IYY a lot of publicity and raised funds for youth projects in the country. In Benin, special IYY T-shirts were worn to publicize the year. Wide publicity and public information services were also

undertaken in Botswana, Lesotho, Seychelles, Mauritius and a number of other countries.

(h) Cultural, sports and recreation

22. Throughout the region, various festivals, cultural events and sports competitions were organized during IYY in which the participation of young people featured prominently. Examples of such activities were the national scientific, literary, and theatrical contests, art and photographic exhibitions, music shows and youth debates held in Tunisia. Moreover, in observance of the Year, the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Tunisia, sponsored the construction of several stadia and libraries for use by young people, in both the rural and urban centres. The National Youth Festival in Burundi featured such activities as exhibitions, cultural and sports events, and folklore, while Central African Republic had carnivals, exhibitions of youth work, songs, cultural events and devoted a day to voluntary work to sensitize young people to the ideal of voluntariness. Algeria marked the event by organizing the first National Youth Festival involving youth in cultural, scientific, sporting, music, literary, and photographic competitions, with the winning entry forming part of the national exhibition. A number of activities were undertaken in Madagascar including competitions of young amateur artists, promotion of sports for all, the institutionalization of physical education in educational institutions, construction and management of youth lodging/recreation centres, and the erection of a commemorative IYY stone in each communal locality. Similar cultural, sporting and recreational festivities took place in Benin, Lesotho, Mauritania, Kenya, Morocco, Swaziland, Tanzania, Rwanda, Togo, Madagascar, Senegal, Algeria and many other countries.

(i) Peace and international understanding

23. As the theme of International Youth Year included "peace", a number of activities undertaken by African countries, both at the national and international levels, reflected this aspect. At the national level, Madagascar organized youth exchange programmes, youth provincial fairs, socio-cultural tourism for youth and seminars on the theme of peace. At the international level, youth exchange programmes, sporting competitions and exhibitions were organied with other island countries of the Indian Ocean. Young people from Madagascar also participated in the 12th World Youth Festival in Moscow, the festival of traditional music in India, the Pan-African Youth Congress in Belgium and the Youth Festival organized by the Pan-African Youth movement in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. In Algeria, an international youth scout camp of friendship was organized, and foreign youth were invited to participate in the national campaign entitled "Knowledge of Algeria". The youth of Kenya were sent on a goodwill mission to Japan, Norway, and Canada, and in reciprocity, Kenya received a similar mission from Japan. Youth delegations from the

Seychelles participated in the International IYY Conference on Law in Montreal, Canada, the Yamoussoukro games and the International Symposium on Peace on Cote d'Ivoire, and in the Moscow World Youth Festival. National and international youth exchange programmes were organized by Togo, Senegal, Botswana and several other countries. The national IYY committee in Tanzania had a sub-committee or peace, which encouraged young people to write essays on such issues as the evils of apartheid, the dangers of nuclear wars, and the other issues affecting peace. The gathering of young athletes from French-speaking African countries in Yamoussoukro, an international work camp for tree-planting, and an interrational symposium on peace were organized by the IYY committee of Cote d'Ivoire.

24. Most countries in North Africa participated in the various seminars and conferences organized specifically for Arab countries during IYY. These included the Third Arab Regional Work Camp (United Arab Emirates), the Conference of Arab University Students (Iraq), the Cultural Seminar on Arab Women (Morocco), and the Arab Youth Week in Europe. Youth from several African countries were also represented in a number of youth conference including the Moscow World Festival, the Youth Festival organized by the Pan-African Youth Movement, in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Republic, and other such forums, which provided youth the opportunity to exchange ideas and experience on their situation and on other issues affecting them, as well as to develop a sense of comradeship. The United Nations also promoted technical co-operation among countries (TCDC), through the United Nations Volunteers Programmes and the District Development Services (DDS) both of which are instrumental in fostering understanding among youth of various countries, and thus promoting peace among nations.

(j) Regional and interrational action

25. Governmental, non-governmental, Uritec Nations and other international organizations also promoted the objectives of International Youth Year, Participation, Development and Peace, by sponsoring a number of activities, workshops, seminars, conferences, either on broad issues affecting young people, or on topics specific on youth. Some of these activities are mentioned as follows:

26. A meeting on Street Children and Youth was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in February 1985, uncer the sponsorship of the Inter-NGO Programme on Street Childrer and Street Youth and the International Catholic Child Bureau. As follow-up to the meeting, the Environmental Development for the Third World Organization (ENDA) which has been stucying the problem of street children and youth, published a newsletter called "Lettre de la Rue" (a letter from the street), devoted tc the problem of street children and youth, calling for corcrete action to solve the problem. The world Assembly of Youth (WAY), in co-operation with

the Kenya Association of Youth Organizations (KAYO), and the Ministry of Culture and Social Services, organized a Regional Workshop on Youth and Population Awareness through Non-formal Means, in Nairobi, Kenya, from 28 October to 3 November 1985. The participation of young people in developmental issues, particularly those concerning population, fertility and the environment was underlined in the workshop.

27. The Arab Conference on Youth and the Family, held in Morocco, in December 1985, reviewed the achievements of family planning associations as far as young people were concerned and developed plans for future youth involvement. The Zambia Council for Social Development, in co-operation with the International Council on Social Welfare, organized an African Regional Conference on Social Development in the African Context, in August 1985. Topics for the conference included those that directly affect young people such as youth unemployment, urbanization and housing in Africa, literacy and social development, malnutrition and social development and the changing African family position.

28. To underline the role of young people in the conservation and protection of the environment, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), help an African Seminar on Youth and Environment, in Nairobi Kenya, in November 1985. The seminar brought together representatives from 24 African countries, to discuss the importance of instilling an early awareness in children and youth of their role in the protection and conservation of the environment for future generations. To bring the youth unemployment problem into sharper focus during IYY, the ILO Jobs and Skills Programme for Africa (JASPA) included "Youth Employment in Africa" as one of the major topics of the Steering Group Meeting on Priority Employment Policies and Projects for Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November 1985. The concern for the rising rates of youth unemployment was also shared by the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), when it organized a Workshop on Youth Facing the Employment Crisis in Africa, in Tripoli, in November. Participants discussed and made proposals on such pressing issues as the job market problems facing youth in Africa, the trends of the African economy and employment policies, effects of the education and training systems on youth employment prospects, the specific problem of young women, migrants and disabled persons and the need for statistical data as bases for formulating youth employment policies.

29. In commemoration of the Year, UNESCO also organized the World Congress on Youth, in Barcelona, Spain, in July, which was attended by 267 participants and 341 observers, including representative of youth organizations, who made presentations on the problems facing young people in the different regions of the world. Other issue dealt with by the congress were youth, education and work; youth and cultural development; and youth,

mutual understanding and international co-operation, on which participants made policy and operational proposals.

30. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) focussed its attention on those activities which promoted the objectives of the Year. To this end, it continued to compile information on the Directory of Youth Organizations in Africa, whose objective is to facilitate communication between the United Nations and youth organizations on the one hand and among the various youth organizations in African countries on the other. Collection and dissemination of information on the establishment of national co-ordinating committees for IYY and their activities also continued. Speaking on behalf of the United Nations organizations represented in Ethiopia, the Exectuvie Secretary of ECA issued a statement on the Ethiopian Television, highlighting the objectives of the Year and urging all concerned to support these objectives in order to meet the needs and aspirations of young people.

31. Coinciding with the International Youth Year, was the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality Development and Peace, held in Nairobi, Kenya in July 1985. The two events shared the themes of Development and Peace, while there are close similarities between the themes of Equality (for women) and participation (for youth). In this connection, the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, adopted by the World Conference, proposed measures concerning young women in particular and youth in general. To close the Year, the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted some of its plenary sessions to discussing policies and programmes relating to youth, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 39/22 of November 1984, operative paragraph two of which states: "... Decides to devote an appropriate number of plenary meetings at its fortieth session, in 1985, to policies and programmes relating to youth and to designate these meetings as the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year which should take place in keeping with the procedures and practices of the General Assembly". Accordingly, the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year, after due considerations for the major issues concerning youth policies and programmes, decided to endorse the Guidelines for Further Planning and Suitable Follow-up in the Field of Youth, and urged "all member States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional commissions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to exert all possible efforts for the implementation of the guidelines ... in accordance with their experience, conditions and priorities". (GA Resolution 40/14)

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